



The Whip Wind-Up



Wednesday, July 30, 1997

House Meets Today At

GOP Leadership Predicts Last Vote

10:00 am

9:00 - 10:00 pm

Number of "One-Minutes" Today: 10 per side

Floor Schedule

- ➡ **Martial Law Resolution (H.Res. 201)**: The House is scheduled to begin today with a resolution reported from the Rules Committee last night which gives the Speaker "martial law" authority to bring the Budget Reconciliation Spending Conference Report (H.R. 2015) and the Budget Reconciliation Tax Conference Report (H.R. 2014) to the floor without the one-day layover requirement under regular House Rules. **The one-day layover is intended to provide Members and the public an opportunity to examine legislation in advance of floor consideration.**

Under normal House procedures, a rule reported from the Rules Committee can be considered on the House floor **only** if: 1) it has a **one-day layover**; or 2) it is approved by a **two-thirds majority**. This Martial Law Resolution **waives these requirements** until Saturday, August 2 and allows same-day consideration of both conference reports. The Martial Law Resolution may not be amended and is debatable for 1 hour. The resolution will be managed by Ranking Rules Committee Democrat Joseph Moakley.

- ➡ **Budget Reconciliation Spending Act Conference Report (H.R. 2015)**: Next, the House is expected to consider the Budget Reconciliation Spending Conference Report. The Rules Committee is scheduled to meet this morning to recommend a rule for consideration of the conference report. The Budget Reconciliation Spending Conference Report will be managed by Ranking Budget Committee Democrat John Spratt.

- ➡ **Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act for FY '98 (H.R. 2264)**: Finally, the House is expected to consider the Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act. On Monday, the Rules Committee recommended an **open rule** which sets no limit on the number of germane amendments or the amount of debate time on amendments. **The rule grants, however, special waivers to four amendments** which would not otherwise be in order on the appropriations bill -- including a **Hyde** amendment and a **Lowey substitute** regarding federal funding for abortion services in managed care plans; and an **Istook** amendment and a **Porter substitute** concerning parental notification at family planning clinics. The rule provides no limit on the amount of debate time for the four amendments listed above. In addition, the rule provides 1 hour of general debate; permits the Chair to postpone and "cluster" recorded votes on amendments; and allows a motion to recommit with or without instructions. The bill will be managed by Ranking Appropriations Committee Democrat David Obey.

Bills & Key Issues

The **Budget Reconciliation Spending Act Conference Report** implements the entitlement savings and spending proposals required by the Budget Resolution and the bipartisan budget agreement. The conference report provides a total of \$24 billion for children's health care coverage -- \$8 billion more than the House-passed bill. The agreement also provides \$1.5 billion to ease the impact of increased Medicare premiums on low-income seniors, and a \$3 billion block grant for welfare-to-work programs. The conference report includes reductions in Medicare spending of \$115 billion over five years, and Medicaid savings of \$13.6 billion. The bill extends the solvency of the Medicare Part A Trust Fund through 2007. The conference report also restores SSI and Medicaid benefits for legal immigrants who were receiving them when the Welfare bill was enacted last August. In addition, the bill provides SSI benefits to legal immigrants who were in the U.S. last August and who later become disabled -- as stipulated under the original budget agreement. Finally, the conference report **does not include** provisions regarding MEWA health plans, medical malpractice, restrictions on the application of the Fair Labor Standards Act, and privatization of food stamps and Medicaid that were included in the House-passed bill.

The **Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Act for FY '98** provides \$279.1 billion for the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Departments. The overall total is \$8.2 billion less than last year's level, primarily due to changes in mandatory spending enacted in last year's welfare bill. The bill provides \$32.1 billion for education which is \$3.2 billion or 11% more than last year's level -- including increases in student financial assistance, Title I funding to help disadvantaged students, and special education funding. The bill also provides funding for OSHA and the National Labor Relations Board in amounts that are similar to last year's levels.

Important Notices



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☹ In an exciting finish last night, Republicans came from behind to barely defeat Democrats 10-9 in the 36th Annual Charity Baseball Game. Just wait until next year!



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